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I list a few folk with speech disabilities among my friends and acquaintances, and have first-hand experience with the communication difficulties they encounter daily and the heroic efforts it requires on their parts to function in today's world. I strongly urge all possible support for the Speech-to-Speech program: the training of more people to use it, and am in complete accord with the following statements regarding the program.

-Operators need to stay on the call long enough to get used to the way the PERSON with a speech disability talks.

--Operators should tell callers that everything is confidential.

--People with a speech disability need an easy way to reach Speech-To-Speech.

--More people with speech disabilities need to be taught to use STS.

--All these statements also apply to people who use STS on the computer.

--There should be competition, as that makes STS work better.

--The operators need to be paid enough so that they do a good job, and they need good training.